

Outdoor Conservation Tips

Dormant Grass

In extended periods of drought where a lawn is not watered, the lawn will wilt and the leaves will turn brown. Dormancy is a natural survival mechanism of the turf plants. When grass leaves are dead, little water is lost which conserves water and allows the crown and root system to remain alive.

Turf can survive four to six weeks in a dormant condition without a significant thinning of the turf upon the return of favorable moisture conditions. If the dry weather persists, water dormant turf with 1 to 1-1/2 inches of water every four to six weeks.

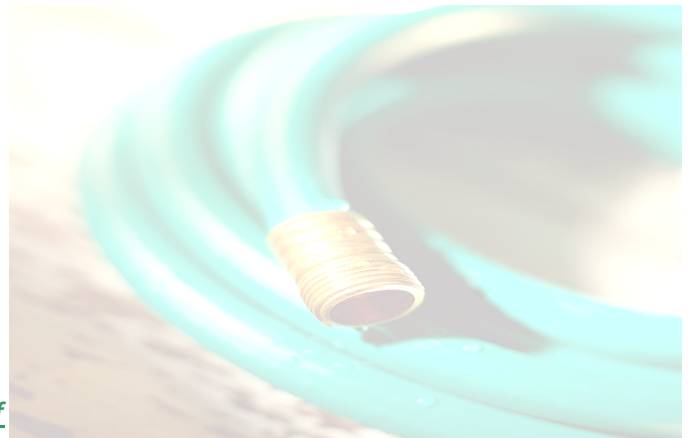
Following the onset of rainfall, the turf will develop new leaves and begin to grow actively.

Source: <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/pubs/ay-7.pdf>

When is the most effective time to water your lawn?

The ideal time to irrigate a lawn is from 4-8 AM when water demand is at its lowest and the amount of water lost to evaporation is negligible. Watering a lawn during midday is not very effective. A large amount of water is lost through evaporation, making it difficult to thoroughly wet the soil.

Source: <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/pubs/ay-7pdf>



Watering trees and shrubs

- Use drip irrigation placed at the width of the tree canopy.
- Use mulch around trees and shrubs to decrease water loss to evaporation.
- If watering with a hose set to medium flow, soak ground at the edge of the tree canopy for 5 minutes for each inch in diameter.

